

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

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✓ FORTY PERCENT OF U. S. FARMS HAVE TELEPHONES

Preliminary data from an annual survey made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics indicate that approximately 40 percent of all farms in the United States had telephones as of July 1, 1949. This is an increase of approximately 1/12 from the 37 percent reported by a representative list of farmers last year.

- These data are based upon an analysis of 18,000 reports, representing farms in all States, returned to the Bureau in response to a mailed inquiry in the summer of 1949.
- The survey indicates that slightly more than 3/4 of the farms in New England had telephones and that over 60 percent had phones in the Middle Atlantic, East North Central, West North Central, and Pacific States. In the Mountain States the proportion was just under half. In the South Atlantic, East South Central, and West South Central States, returns from the survey indicate that less than a quarter of the farms are equipped with telephones. Increases from last year, however, are indicated for each of the geographical regions.

Data prepared by the Rural Electrification Administration indicate that the proportion of farms in the United States with central station electric service was 78 percent as of June 30, 1949. Thus, about half as many farms have telephones as have central station electric service. As in the case of telephones, the proportion of farms with electric service increased over the previous year, but in somewhat greater amount -- about 1/8.

- The regional variation in percent of farms having central station electric service is somewhat smaller than in the percentage of farms with telephones. Thus, the highest average percentage of farms with central station electric service was 96 percent in the East North Central and in the Pacific States, and the lowest was 64 percent in the East South Central States.

Percent of Farms Having Telephones and Electricity,
1945 and 1948, by Regions

Region	Percent of Farms Having					
	Electricity			Telephones		
	(Central Stn. Service)					
	1945 1/	June 30, 1948 2/	June 30, 1949 3/	1945 1/	Year Ended: July 1, 1948 4/	July 1, 1949
New England	78	88	89	63	72	76
Middle Atlantic States	79	92	94	47	57	64
East North Central States	71	92	96	51	59	62
West North Central States	43	56	66	57	60	64
South Atlantic States	38	68	82	11	13	16
East South Central States	27	49	64	10	12	15
West South Central States	32	58	71	15	18	23
Mountain States	57	71	78	33	46	48
Pacific States	82	94	96	43	54	61
United States	48	69	78	32	37	40

1/ Bureau of the Census.

2/ Estimates released by the Rural Electrification Administration, September 30, 1948.

3/ Estimates released by the Rural Electrification Administration, September 30, 1949.

4/ Estimates based on combined indication from two surveys, July 1, 1947 and July 1, 1948.

